IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-2 (Canceled).

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The nonlinear resistor according to claim 8, wherein a thickness of the side-surface high resistance layer falls within a range of 1 μm to 2 mm.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The nonlinear resistor according to claim 8, wherein the side-surface high resistance layer is adhered to the sintered body so as to have a shock adhesive strength of 40 mm or more.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The nonlinear resistor according to claim 8, wherein a material of the electrode is selected from the group consisting of aluminum, copper, zinc, nickel, gold, silver, titanium and alloys thereof.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The nonlinear resistor according to claim 8, wherein an average thickness of the electrode falls within a range of 5 μm to 500 μm.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A method of forming a nonlinear resistor according to claim 8, comprising:

forming a side-surface high resistance layer at a side-surface of a sintered body containing zinc oxide as a main component; and

forming an electrode at upper and lower surfaces of the sintered body,

wherein the electrode is formed by a method selecting from the group consisting of plasma spraying, arc spraying, high-speed gas flame spraying, screen printing, deposition, transferring, and sputtering.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A non-linear resistor comprising:

a sintered body comprising zinc oxide as a main component;

a side-surface high resistance layer arranged at a side-surface of said sintered body, and being formed of at least one substance selected from the group consisting of:

an aluminum phosphate based-inorganic adhesive which is an inorganic polymer,

~~an amorphous silica,~~

an amorphous alumina,

~~a complex of an amorphous silica with an organosilicate,~~

~~a glass containing lead as a main component,~~

a glass containing phosphorus as a main component,

a crystalline inorganic substance containing Zn-Sb-Fe-O as a constitutional component,

a crystalline inorganic substance containing Fe-Mn-Bi-Si-O as a constitutional component,

~~a combination of a crystalline inorganic substance containing Zn-Si-O as a constitutional component with a crystalline inorganic substance containing Zn-Sb-Fe-O as a constitutional component,~~

~~a crystalline silica (SiO_2),~~

alumina (Al_2O_3),

mullite ($Al_6Si_2O_{13}$),

cordierite ($Mg_2Al_4Si_5O_{18}$),

titanium oxide (TiO_2), ~~and~~

zirconium oxide (ZrO_2),

a Bi-B-Si glass,

a Bi-Zn-B-Si glass,

a Bi-Zn-B-Si-Al glass, and

a Bi-Zn-B-Al glass; and

an electrode arranged at upper and lower surfaces of the sintered body,

wherein an end-to-end distance between an end of the electrode and an end of the nonlinear resistor including the side-surface high resistance layer falls within a range of 0 mm to a thickness of the side-surface high resistance layer + 0.01 mm.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): The non-linear resistor according to claim 8, wherein said side-surface high resistance layer is formed of a glass containing lead as a main component, or a crystalline inorganic substance containing Zn-Sb-Fe-O as a constitutional component.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): The non-linear resistor according to claim 8, wherein said side-surface high resistance layer is formed of an aluminum phosphate based inorganic adhesive which is an inorganic polymer, an amorphous silica, an amorphous alumina, or a complex of an amorphous silica with an organosilicate.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The non-linear resistor according to claim 8, wherein said side-surface high resistance layer is formed of a glass containing phosphorus as a main component.

Claim 12 (Withdrawn): The non-linear resistor according to claim 8, wherein said side-surface high resistance layer is formed of:

a crystalline inorganic substance containing Fe-Mn-Bi-Si-O as a constitutional component,

a combination of a crystalline inorganic substance containing Zn-Si-O as a constitutional component with a crystalline inorganic substance containing Zn-Sb-Fe-O as a constitutional component,

a crystalline silica (SiO_2),

alumina (Al_2O_3),

mullite ($Al_6Si_2O_{13}$),

cordierite ($Mg_2Al_4Si_5O_{18}$),

titanium oxide (TiO_2),

zirconium oxide (ZrO_2), or

a mixture thereof.

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): The non-linear resistor according to claim 8, wherein said side surface high resistance layer is formed of an epoxy resin, a phenol resin, a melamine resin, a fluorocarbon resin, a silicone resin or a silica-containing epoxy resin.

Claim 14 (Withdrawn): A non-linear resistor comprising:

a sintered body comprising zinc oxide as a main component;

a side-surface high resistance layer arranged at a side-surface of the sintered body and comprising a first sub-layer and a second sub-layer provided on said first sub-layer; and

an electrode arranged at upper and lower surfaces of the sintered body,

wherein an end-to-end distance between an end of the electrode and an end of the nonlinear resistor including the side-surface high resistance layer falls within a range of 0 mm to a thickness of the side-surface high resistance layer + 0.01 mm, and

wherein said first sub-layer is formed of at least one first substance, and said second sub-layer is formed of at least one second substance different from said first substance, with said first and second substances being selected from a group consisting of:

an aluminum phosphate based inorganic adhesive which is an inorganic polymer,

an amorphous silica,

an amorphous alumina,

a complex of an amorphous silica with an organosilicate,

a glass containing lead as a main component,

a glass containing phosphorus as a main component,

a glass containing bismuth as a main component,

a crystalline inorganic substance containing Zn-Sb-Fe-O as a constitutional component,

a crystalline inorganic substance containing Fe-Mn-Bi-Si-O as a constitutional component,

a combination of a crystalline inorganic substance containing Zn-Si-O as a constitutional component with a crystalline inorganic substance containing Zn-Sb-Fe-O as a constitutional component,

a combination of a crystalline inorganic substance containing Zn-Si-O as a constitutional component with a crystalline inorganic substance containing Zn-Sb-O as a constitutional component,

a crystalline silica (SiO_2),

alumina (Al_2O_2),

mullite ($Al_6Si_2O_{13}$),

cordierite ($Mg_2Al_4Si_5O_{18}$),

titanium oxide (TiO_2),

zirconium oxide (ZrO_2),

an epoxy resin,

a phenol resin,

a melamine resin,

a fluorocarbon resin,

a silicone resin, and

a mixture thereof.

Claim 15 (Withdrawn): The nonlinear resistor according to claim 14, wherein said first sub-layer is formed of:

a combination of a crystalline inorganic substance containing Zn-Sb-O as a constitutional component with a crystalline inorganic substance containing Zn-Si-O as a constitutional component,

a combination of a crystalline inorganic substance containing Zn-Sb-Fe-O as a constitutional component with a crystalline inorganic substance containing Zn-Si-O as a constitutional component, or

a combination of an aluminum phosphate based inorganic adhesive with mullite.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn): The nonlinear resistor according to claim 15, wherein said second sub-layer is formed of a glass containing lead as a main component, or a combination of amorphous silica with an organosilicate.

Claim 17 (Withdrawn): The nonlinear resistor according to claim 14, wherein said side-surface high resistance layer has a thickness of 1 μm to 2 mm.

Claim 18 (Withdrawn): The nonlinear resistor according to claim 14, wherein said side-surface high resistance layer is adhered to the sintered body so as to have a shock adhesive strength of 40 mm or more.

Claim 19 (Withdrawn): The nonlinear resistor according to claim 14, wherein said electrode is formed of aluminum, copper, zinc, nickel, gold, silver, titanium or an alloy thereof.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): The nonlinear resistor according to claim 14, wherein said electrode has an average thickness of 5 μm to 500 μm.

Claim 21 (New): A non-linear resistor comprising:

a sintered body comprising zinc oxide as a main component;

a side-surface high resistance layer arranged at a side-surface of said sintered body, and being formed of one member selected from the group consisting of:

a complex of an amorphous silica with an organosilicate;

a combination of a crystalline inorganic substance containing Zn-Si-O as a constitutional component with a crystalline inorganic substance containing Zn-Sb-Fe-O as a constitutional component;

a glass containing phosphorous as a main component;

a mullite-containing aluminum phosphate based inorganic adhesive agent;

an alumina-containing aluminum phosphate based inorganic adhesive agent;

a silica-containing aluminum phosphate based inorganic adhesive agent;

a cordierite-containing aluminum phosphate based inorganic adhesive agent;

a combination of Zn-Si-O crystalline inorganic substance with Zn-Sb-O crystalline inorganic substance;

a combination of Fe-Mn-Bi-Si-O crystalline inorganic substance with Zn-Sb-O crystalline inorganic substance;

a silica-containing epoxy resin;

an alumina-containing epoxy resin; and

a silica/alumina-containing epoxy resin;

wherein an end-to-end distance between an end of the electrode and an end of the nonlinear resistor including the side-surface high resistance layer falls within a range of 0 mm to a thickness of the side-surface high resistance layer + 0.01 mm.